



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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**\$10,000 Grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will Support
Faith-based Alzheimer's Respite Program on Edisto Island**

- **Who:** The New First Missionary Baptist Church, Edisto Island & other Island congregations. Contact Rosa B. Smith, (843) 869-3483.
- **What:** This local community organization was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to begin a volunteer in-home respite care program for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease and their families. The program will bring together volunteers from numerous congregations on Edisto to provide help for families who are providing care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or a related disorder.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to the program leaders. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

Background:

Currently, there is no program on Edisto Island geared specifically towards individuals suffering from Alzheimer's or related disorders and their families. While volunteers from many of the churches on Edisto Island are already providing help to members of that community, leaders at New First Baptist saw an opportunity to pull all of those individual efforts together under one program that would specifically address the needs of families caring for elderly relatives. Volunteers from the island's churches will provide meals, take individuals or their caregivers shopping or to run errands, do household chores, help with bathing or feeding, or just keep them company to allow the primary caregiver a break.

According to the grant application prepared by First Baptist, other congregations that will be participating in the program include: the Presbyterian Church, Edisto Island Presbyterian USA, Trinity Episcopal Church, Zion Reformed Episcopal, Allen African Methodist Episcopal (AME), Bethel AME, Calvary AME, Bethlehem RMUE, Edisto Island Methodist Mission, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Edisto Beach Baptist Church, Church of Christ of Edisto Island, Greater Galilee Church of our Lord, and the Catholic Church of St. Frederick-St. Stephen. Also involved in the island-wide collaborative are the Ocean Queen Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Edisto Island Outreach Community Center.

Rosa B. Smith will be the Administrator for the grant, and Elizabeth Horlbeck will be the Coordinator for the volunteer program. Together, Smith and Horlbeck bring over 60 years of experience in social work to the project.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Charleston County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org . The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.